

## Mary Lewis View-Master Artist

Mary is a sculptor who was hired by View-Master in the Early 1970s. She worked with both Joe Liptak and Florence Thomas. She learned the crafts they had perfected to craft beautiful figures out of clay or sculpey. She has been credited by Wolfgang and Mary Ann Sell in their book “View-Master Memories” with working on 5 packets. She is the sole artist credited on three of them. Her career at View-Master was short as she quit View-Master because they were pressuring the artists to increase output to the detriment of the quality. Fortunately all of her 3D work is available on unfaded Kodachrome. She was born in 1927, started work as an artist in 1944, and as of 2015 she is still working as a sculptor in Oregon creating various works including commissions for Catholic churches.

Her style of pictures is quite different from either Joe or Florence. Florence crafted very classical figures which often gave one the impression of Meissen figurines. Florence obviously liked cats and feature and had them in many of her reels. Both Joe and Florence could create figures which looked just like classical illustrations. Joe frequently did cartoon and TV/movie show reels, while Florence did only one Disney movie, and Mary did not work on any show reels. Joe’s work, when he was not copying existing works, could be very realistic with a dash of cartoon styling and surprising perspectives. Mary created realistic figures with down to earth styling. This is very evident in her bible series reels.



B882A 2 The boy Jesus must have learned carpentry from Joseph

The Revolutionary War packet was painstakingly researched and the results are outstanding. Mary contributed the scene of Washington Crossing the Delaware which beautifully echoes the famous but unrealistic painting by the German artist Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. The diorama ended up in a GAF executive's living room, to Mary's dismay, according to Wolfgang Sell.



B8102 5 Washington crossed Delaware to surprise Hessians

The Little Yellow Dinosaur was a cute children's story with dinosaur's modeled according to some of the science of the time. The fact that dinos were warm blooded, feathered, and brightly colored had not yet been verified. At least they were colored in Mary's dioramas. This was Mary's first project completely under her control. She and Bob Johnson wrote the story.



B6051 4 The little yellow dinosaur looked at the cretaceous world



In the beginning is a packet taken from the Biblical Genesis stories. It covers Genesis I, Adam and Eve, and Cain and Able. Mary created some stunningly beautiful dioramas for this packet. Some of the Genesis I scenes parallel research on the evolution of life on Earth. In some scenes she used a bas relief effect.



B8551 7 Let us make man to have dominion over the Earth

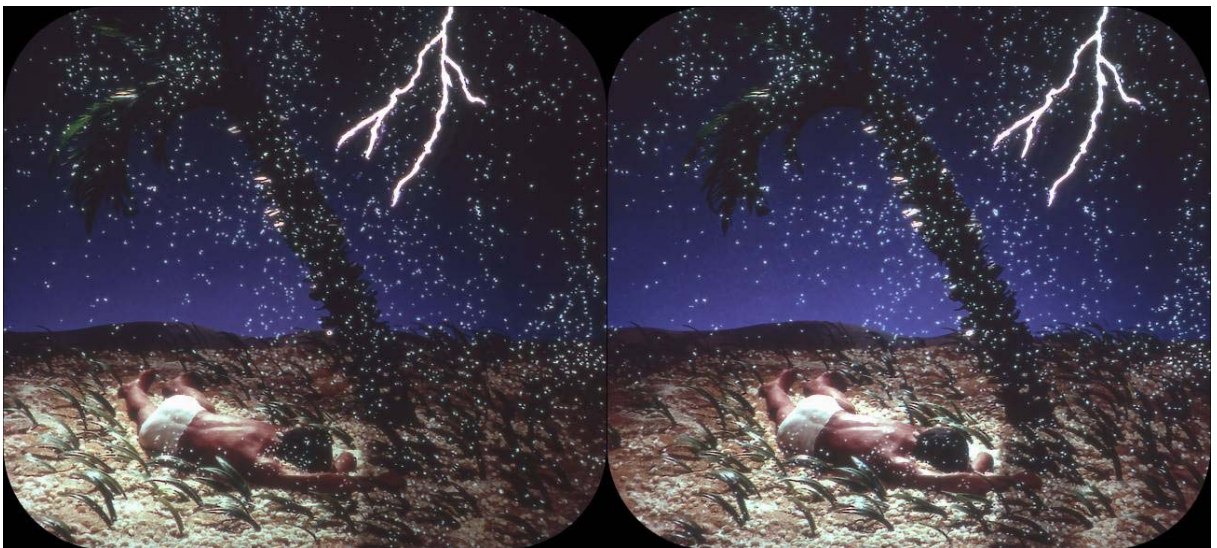


B8552 2 God has said we must not eat of the tree of knowledge

Florence Thomas worked with Mary on the “Moses and the Plagues of Egypt” packet. According to Wolfgang Mary did most of the work and created all of the animals. Florence probably worked on the human figures.



B8533 1 In another plague, frogs covered all the land



B8533 3 Hail and lightning struck down trees, crops, and people





Mary Lewis with one of her dinosaurs for "The Little Yellow Dinosaur" circa 1970

3D photos by Cliff Bond, Hank Gaylord, Digitization-Wolfgang Sell, Restoration-J. Clement



Mary Lewis with Little Yellow Dinosaur fallen into rhododendrons, and hatching

Bibliography: *View-Master Memories* by Mary Ann & Wolfgang Sell

List of Credited View-Master reels by Mary Lewis:

1970 B853 Moses and the Plagues of Egypt (with Florence Thomas)

1971 B605 The Little Yellow Dinosaur

1972 B855 In the Beginning

1975 B810 The Revolutionary War (with Lelia Heath Pearson, Joe Liptak)

1976 B882 Jesus Christ, His Life